

the House passed a nearly identical bill like this one today. Unfortunately, the Senate did not take it up. There is ample time to get this passed before the end of this Congress.

So I implore my colleagues on the other side and the Senate to get this bill to the President for his signature. We will not rest until this bill gets to the President's desk and it is signed into law.

I want to again thank Chairman GOWDY for his help, and his committee staff as well. Also, I thank Speaker RYAN, Majority Leader MCCARTHY, and the whip, Mr. SCALISE, for his help.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this legislation.

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, ZIP Codes organize the country to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of mail for millions of Americans. The postal service has the authority to establish ZIP Codes and adjust their boundaries based on changes in delivery and on volume and operational concerns. However, communities, businesses, and other local entities can also voice their concern with ZIP Code boundaries and request adjustments.

This bill would require the Postal Service to establish new ZIP Codes for five communities that have each requested and been denied ZIP Code changes. These communities base their ZIP Code requests on concerns such as delay in mail delivery, emergency service response times, and the denial or inconsistent application of services to community members. These are important concerns and should be addressed accordingly.

The Postal Service has worked with affected communities to find solutions, and I commend those efforts. This bill would require the ZIP Code changes requested by those communities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN), my friend.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6846, which would create a new, unique ZIP Code for the hamlets of Flanders, Northampton, and Riverside, located in Suffolk County, New York, in my district. These three hamlets currently share the same ZIP Code with the nearby town of Riverhead, where there are at least 18 identical street names and 32 similar street names. This causes a number of issues, including the delay of mail and packages, which can hold important goods like medications. Shared street names can also delay the response for emergency and medical personnel in situations where every second counts.

This could all be avoided by assigning a new and unique ZIP Code to Flanders, Northampton, and Riverside, which is why I have been working

closely with committee and House leadership to ensure this important issue does not go unresolved.

Last Congress, I brought then-Over-sight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz to my district to hear from my constituents firsthand regarding how important this issue is to us. I then worked with Chairman Chaffetz to secure House passage last Congress, but, unfortunately, the Senate failed to act.

I urge my colleagues in the House to pass this bill tonight, and I implore the Senate to take this bill up immediately. This legislation will have an immediate, on-the-ground, positive impact on the lives of so many of my constituents.

I would like to thank, especially, Ron Fisher, chairman of the Flanders, Riverside, Northampton Citizens Advisory Council and president of the Flanders, Riverside, Northampton Community Association. I would also like to thank Vince Taldone and Vicki Farruggia from the Flanders, Riverside, Northampton Community Association.

I thank the chair of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and his great staff. I appreciate their support and urge a "yes" vote.

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6846.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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REAL ID ACT MODIFICATION FOR FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES ACT

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3398) to amend the Real ID Act of 2005 to permit Freely Associated States to meet identification requirements under such Act, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3398

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "REAL ID Act Modification for Freely Associated States Act".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT.

(a) DEFINITION OF STATE.—Section 201(5) of the Real ID Act of 2005 (49 U.S.C. 30301 note; Public Law 109-13) is amended by striking "the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands,".

(b) EVIDENCE OF LAWFUL STATUS.—Section 202(c)(2)(B) of the REAL ID Act of 2005 (49 U.S.C. 30301 note; Public Law 109-13) is amended—

(1) in clause (viii), by striking "or" at the end;

(2) in clause (ix), by striking the period at the end and inserting ";; or"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(x) is a citizen of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau who has been admitted to the United States as a non-immigrant pursuant to a Compact of Free Association between the United States and the Republic or Federated States.".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GOMEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, 30 years ago, the United States solidified a unique international relationship by signing the Compact of Free Association with the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau. Collectively, these three sovereign nations are referred to as the Freely Associated States.

Under the Compact of Free Association, citizens from the Freely Associated States can live, work, and study in the United States as legal non-immigrants without a need for a visa.

In 2005, Congress enacted the Real ID Act, which enacted the 9/11 Commission's recommendation to set Federal standards for driver's license and other sources of identification. However, the Real ID Act of 2005 made no mention of the Freely Associated States or the compact. Instead, the law referred to "the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands," a now-defunct entity that ceased to exist in 1994. The former trusteeship predated the current self-governing status of Freely Associated States as established under the Compact of Free Association.

As a result of this error, citizens of the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and Palau are often forced to settle for temporary driver's licenses that expire after a year, costing these citizens access to work, housing, transportation, and other opportunities. Because some employers have been reluctant to hire or retain temporary-licensed carriers, many of these citizens lose access to work, housing, transportation, and other opportunities.

The omission also greatly disadvantages these citizens to other non-immigrants who are able to obtain standard licenses lasting up to 8 years, if they meet the Real ID Act eligibility requirements.

H.R. 3398 corrects this drafting error in the Real ID Act. Fixing this error in

the law clarifies the legal eligibility of the citizens of these three nations for full-term driver's licenses, honors the terms of our Compact of Free Association, and reaffirms our partnership with the three nations.

I would like to thank Representative DON YOUNG, the gentleman from Alaska and my friend, for his work on this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the bill before us would make a technical correction to the Real ID Act of 2005. The act incorrectly identified persons from the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and Palau as citizens of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, an entity that has not existed since 1994. This error has caused citizens of these trust territories difficulties because they are often issued only temporary driver's licenses. This, in turn, makes some employers reluctant to hire these citizens and makes it difficult for them to access government services.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, urge my colleagues to do so as well, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), the sponsor of this bill.

(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. RUSSELL and the minority member for their work on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3398 is a bill that should be passed. I strongly support it. I was listening to the testimony from the chairman, and he has put it so well, I probably won't speak anymore. I do believe that what he said is all true. It is necessary. It is needed.

This is something that was an oversight, because I was here when we wrote the original bill in 2005. It was an oversight, and the gentleman did a great job explaining it.

This is needed for those citizens who we consider from Palau, Micronesia, and the other islands there, and we will do the work. I thank the gentleman again for his work.

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HANABUSA).

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3398, the REAL ID Act Modification for Freely Associated States Act.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague and good friend from Alaska, Congressman DON YOUNG, for introducing this bill, which I proudly co-sponsored.

Through the Compact of Free Association, the United States and the Freely Associated States—the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic

of Palau—agreed to the terms of our special and unique government-to-government relationships. It is through these compacts that the citizens of the Freely Associated States can enter the U.S. to live, work, study, and visit indefinitely as legal nonimmigrants without visa, with guaranteed access to social and health services.

In return, the U.S. has defense and certain other operating rights in the Freely Associated States, denial of access to the territory by other nations, and other agreements of strategic importance to the United States.

The Freely Associated States' citizens migrate to Hawaii and other places in the U.S. for many reasons, including but not limited to job and economic opportunities.

Hawaii is one of the four recognized affected jurisdictions by the U.S. Government. Hawaii experiences the highest impact of FAS migrants. The other affected jurisdictions are Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa.

Based on the U.S. Census data for 2010 to 2014, the five States with the highest number of FAS citizens are Hawaii, with 17,205; Arkansas, with 3,625; Washington, with 3,430; Oregon, with 2,580; and Texas, with 2,090.

Unfortunately, when Congress passed the Real ID Act in 2005, it used an obsolete reference to the Freely Associated States countries, specifically identifying them as the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

As a result, when the Freely Associated States' migrants seek to obtain a U.S. ID or license, they can only obtain a temporary license for 1 year, since they are legally noncitizens without an end date of their stay.

This is extremely problematic when the migrants seek employment, and it further complicates our ability to accurately assess the size of the FAS citizen population.

It is clear Congress intended to include the Freely Associated States' citizen migrants under the Real ID Act, and I appreciate Congressman YOUNG's effort to correct the RECORD and end the ambiguity which keeps FAS citizens from fully and freely participating in our country and becoming self-sufficient members of our society.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to remind people why we even have these compacts. It is because the United States did do atomic bomb testing, nuclear testing, in this area. As a result, it has affected their health, their ability to retain and stay in their home countries, and the compacts give them free access.

Hawaii is one of the most affected, and we carry a lot of the costs associated with the compacts, especially in the area of medical, education, and housing.

So the ability to have these Real IDs, then, will facilitate the various migrants' ability to actually seek jobs and have an equal footing in terms of economic opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 3398.

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CURTIS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3398.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL RICE MONTH

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, this week, I joined rice farmers in Crowley, Louisiana, the rice capital of the world, to recognize National Rice Month.

With more rice mills per square mile than anywhere else in America, the small town of Crowley was a fitting place to celebrate the beginning of the harvest for American-grown rice. Rice is a part of our Southern culture and is a major agricultural commodity for Louisiana.

There are more than 400,000 rice acres in Louisiana, generating over \$700 million in economic output each year, supporting many thousands of Louisiana jobs. Rice farmers and farm families are solid Americans, and south Louisiana would not be what it is without rice.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a strong advocate of American rice, and I commend the nearly 125,000 Americans who work to provide this quality, nutritious crop to our Nation and the world.

SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, September is Suicide Prevention Month, and almost every 12 minutes, an American dies by suicide.

It is now the 10th leading cause of death in the United States of America. The Centers for Disease Control recently reported a 30 percent increase in suicide rates in the last 30 years, with nearly 45,000 Americans taking their own lives in 2016.

Mr. Speaker, suicide is preventable. Increasing access to crisis resources saves lives. Mental and behavioral health research saves lives. Ending the stigma surrounding suicide and reaching out for help saves lives.

On average, one person dies by suicide every 4 hours in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, according to